United Nations S/PV.6736

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6736th meeting

Wednesday, 21 March 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Sir Mark Lyall Grant	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-27000 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

After consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

"The Security Council recalls its presidential statement of 3 August 2011 and its press statement of 1 March 2012.

"The Security Council expresses its gravest concern at the deteriorating situation in Syria, which has resulted in a serious human rights crisis and a deplorable humanitarian situation. The Security Council expresses its profound regret at the death of many thousands of people in Syria.

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria, and to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

"The Security Council welcomes the appointment of the Joint Special Envoy for the United Nations and the League of Arab States, Kofi Annan, following General Assembly resolution 66/253 of 16 February 2012 and relevant resolutions of the League of Arab States.

"The Security Council expresses its full support for the efforts of the Envoy to bring an immediate end to all violence and human rights violations, secure humanitarian access, and facilitate a Syrian-led political transition to a democratic, plural political system, in which citizens are equal regardless of their affiliations or ethnicities or beliefs, including through commencing a comprehensive political dialogue between the Syrian Government and the whole spectrum of the Syrian opposition.

"To this aim, the Security Council fully supports the initial six-point proposal submitted to the Syrian authorities, as outlined by the Envoy to the Security Council on 16 March 2012, to:

"(1) commit to work with the Envoy in an inclusive Syrian-led political process to address the legitimate aspirations and concerns of the Syrian people, and, to this end, commit to appoint an empowered interlocutor when invited to do so by the Envoy;

"(2) commit to stop the fighting and achieve urgently an effective United Nations supervised cessation of armed violence in all its forms by all parties to protect civilians and stabilize the country. To this end, the Syrian Government should immediately cease troop movements towards, and end the use of heavy weapons in, population centres, and begin pullback of military concentrations in and around population centres. As these actions are being taken on the ground, the Syrian Government should work with the Envoy to bring about a sustained cessation of armed violence in all its forms by all parties with an effective United Nations supervision mechanism. Similar commitments would be sought by the Envoy from the opposition and all relevant elements to stop the fighting and work with him to bring about a sustained cessation of armed violence in all its forms by all parties with an effective United Nations supervision mechanism;

"(3) ensure timely provision of humanitarian assistance to all areas affected by the fighting and to this end, as immediate steps, to accept and implement a daily two-hour humanitarian pause and to coordinate exact time and modalities of the daily pause through an efficient mechanism, including at local level.

"(4) intensify the pace and scale of release of arbitrarily detained persons, including especially vulnerable categories of persons, and persons involved in peaceful political activities, provide without delay through appropriate channels a list of all places in which such persons are being detained, immediately begin organizing access to such locations and through appropriate channels respond promptly to all written requests for information, access or release regarding such persons;

"(5) ensure freedom of movement throughout the country for journalists and a non-discriminatory visa policy for them;

"(6) respect freedom of association and the right to demonstrate peacefully as legally guaranteed.

"The Security Council calls upon the Syrian government and opposition to work in good faith with the Envoy towards a peaceful settlement of the Syrian crisis and to implement fully and immediately his initial six-point proposal. The Security Council requests the Envoy to update the Council regularly and in a timely manner on the progress of his mission. In the light of these reports, the Security Council will consider further steps as appropriate."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2012/6.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.10 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6737

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6737th meeting

Wednesday, 21 March 2012, 10.15 a.m.

New York

President:	Sir Mark Lyall Grant	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

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12-27140 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Ambassador Néstor Osorio, Permanent Representative of Colombia, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

I now give the floor to Ambassador Osorio.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia): I have the honour to present the 90-day report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), in accordance with paragraph 18 (h) of the same resolution. The report covers the period from 21 December 2011 to 20 March 2012.

During the reporting period, the Committee held one informal consultation, on 29 February 2012. The Committee also continued to perform its duties through informal contacts and exchanges and the no-objection procedure envisioned by paragraph 15 of the guidelines for the conduct of its work.

During the informal consultations of 29 February, the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts briefed the Committee on the Panel's activities since December 2011. The Panel conducted visits and held a series of consultations, listed in the annex, and submitted three reports regarding reported incidents, as well as a fourth quarterly assessment of Member States' implementation reports. Committee members exchanged views on a number of issues, including on the three reports submitted by the Panel, the publication of the Panel's 2011 final report, the need for an effective and diligent response of the Committee to sanctions violations, and the open briefing of the Chair to be held soon, with the participation of the Panel.

Some Member States expressed concern regarding the illicit transfers of arms between Iran and Syria, documented by the reports notified to the Committee. A Member State drew the attention of the Committee to a public statement of the Secretary-General of Hizbullah dated 7 February, in which he acknowledged that his movement had received material support in all possible and available forms from Iran since 1982, while recognizing that in the past his movement had remained silent when asked about financial and military support.

With respect to the implementation assistance notices previously drafted by the Panel at the request of the Committee, some Committee members expressed hope that the notices could be soon finalized. A Member State raised the issue of the Panel's travel arrangements. Members also heard a briefing from the delegation of France on the similarities between ballistic and space technologies.

During the reporting period, the Committee continued its consideration of the draft annual report for 2011.

During the reporting period, the Committee received a communication about a reported violation of paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007), which imposes a ban on the export and procurement of all arms and related materiel from the Islamic Republic of Iran. In a note verbale dated 9 January 2012, a Member State provided information on the results of inspections carried out on material confiscated from a truck on 15 February 2011 at a border gate with Syria.

In a letter dated 28 February 2012, four Member States submitted a report regarding a violation of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010) on the launch of the Navid satellite into space using Iran's Safir space launch vehicle as announced by Iran on 3 February 2012.

In a letter dated 22 February, a Member State provided information on interdictions of three consignments. The Committee also received a letter dated 3 January from a Member State, providing information on the inspection of the Panel of Experts in that State on 18 and 19 November 2011 regarding a previously reported incident.

On 27 December 2011, the Committee received a note verbale from a Member State containing a notification with reference to paragraph 5 of resolution 1737 (2006) concerning the transfer to Iran of items

"intended for nuclear power plants with a light-water reactor".

The Committee also received a note verbale dated 1 March 2012 from a Member State transmitting a notification in accordance with paragraph 15 of resolution 1737 (2006) and paragraph 4 of resolution 1747 (2007).

Furthermore, the Committee received from a Member State a note verbale dated 22 February 2012, indicating that its citizens and residents, as well as entities based in that Member State, should address their de-listing requests to the Committee directly through the focal points.

The Committee also received a letter dated 6 March in which a Member State proposed, in accordance with paragraph 26 of resolution 1929 (2010), the designation of two Iranian individuals and an Iranian entity identified following a violation previously reported to the Committee.

On 6 March 2012, responding to a query from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Committee sent a letter providing clarifications regarding the sanctions regime imposed on Iran under resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010) and humanitarian activities.

On 30 January 2012, the Committee responded to the note verbale dated 9 January 2012, which reported a violation of paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007), as I referred to earlier.

The Committee continued its consideration of a reported inspection and seizure, on 28 August 2010, of a container onboard the vessel *MS Finland*, with a view to sending letters to six Member States.

In relation to the issue of national implementation, I would like to note that on 30 January 2012, the Panel of Experts transmitted to the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 1 (b) (i) of the Committee's work programme, a quarterly assessment of the implementation reports submitted by Member States pursuant of paragraph 31 of resolution 1929 (2010), for the period from 1 November 2011 to 31 January 2012.

On the same issue, I am happy to note that during the reporting period the Committee received communications from Turkmenistan and Armenia transmitting their respective reports on the implementation of resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010).

That concludes my report on the work of the Committee.

The President: I thank Ambassador Osorio for his briefing this morning.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Council.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America): I would like to thank Ambassador Osorio for his report.

Iran's illicit nuclear programme presents a grave threat to international peace and security. Today we are confronted with an unsustainable and dangerous status quo. Without swift and serious progress to resolve the international community's doubts about Iran's nuclear programme, there will be further instability in an already tense region.

Since our last meeting (see S/PV.6607), the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has released yet another report that once again affirms that Iran is not complying with its international nuclear obligations and is not cooperating fully with the IAEA. The Director General reports that Iran is continuing to make progress on its nuclear programme. Iran has begun to enrich uranium to the near 20 per cent level at the previously covert Fordo fuel-enrichment plant, which is buried in a hardened bunker underground near Qom. Iran has tripled its capacity to produce such uranium, which is much closer to being weapons-grade.

In spite of good-faith outreach by the IAEA, Iran has chosen to stonewall it, rather than to offer any real cooperation. Iran twice denied IAEA requests to visit a nuclear facility at Parchin, where the Director General reported that Iran may have conducted high-explosive tests related to the development of a nuclear weapon. We all know what full cooperation with the IAEA looks like. This is not even minimal cooperation.

The Director General's latest report illustrates Iran's continued disregard for the Council's clear demands, most notably that it suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities and heavy-water related activities. The Security Council must therefore take the necessary steps to hold Iran accountable.

The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and its Panel of Experts are critically important to this effort. Both the Committee and the Panel must fully and robustly carry out their mandates, including by implementing the Panel's recommendations and responding to reported sanctions violations. Better implementation of existing sanctions can help to slow down Iran's nuclear progress, affording the world more time to resolve our concerns.

We therefore welcome the 1737 Committee's meeting last month to discuss sanctions violations and to receive a briefing on certain Iranian ballistic missile-related activities that are being conducted in violation of resolution 1929 (2010).

We are pleased to see that there has been some progress on the Committee's response to reported sanctions violations over the past 90 days, although more needs to be done. We are alarmed that a majority of the violations reported to the Committee involved illicit transfers of arms and related material from Iran to Syria, where the Al-Assad regime is using them to violently repress the Syrian people. We urge the Committee to impose targeted sanctions on individuals and entities found to be involved in sanctions violations.

We appreciate the Panel's ongoing efforts and look forward to its upcoming final report and recommendations. My Government remains seriously concerned that the Panel's 2011 final report has not yet been released to the full membership of the United Nations. Ten months have passed since the report was submitted. There is simply no excuse for members to continue to delay and obstruct its release. We strongly urge that this issue be resolved before our next meeting.

The United States remains determined to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, and we remain committed to doing so through a comprehensive diplomatic approach that includes substantive engagement and unprecedented pressure. As part of that strategy, on 6 March the European Union High Representative, on behalf of the P5+1, offered to resume talks with Iran as part of a sustained process that leads to real progress in resolving our longstanding concerns with Iran's nuclear programme. Political directors of the P5+1 held a preparatory meeting in Brussels yesterday, and efforts are under way to schedule the next round soon.

It is our firm view that resolving this issue will require Iran to come to the table quickly and seriously to discuss, in a forthright way, how to establish that the intentions of its nuclear programme are, as it claims, peaceful. There are verifiable steps that Iran can take to be in compliance with its obligations. Such steps would provide the world assurance that Iran is not pursuing a nuclear weapon. The question is whether, in the upcoming negotiations, Iran shows itself to be moving clearly and credibly in that direction.

We and our partners remain ready to engage with Iran on the basis of the framework proposed by the P5+1. We will continue to work closely with our partners in the international community, including on the Council and the 1737 Committee, on this critical issue.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank Ambassador Osorio for his quarterly briefing and for his effective chairmanship of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

The Security Council has once again taken up a very worrying report from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The report underscores that Iran is continuing to refuse to honour its international commitments and to meet the demands of the Security Council and of the IAEA Board of Governors. The Agency also points out once again that it is not possible for it to confirm that all nuclear material in Iran is intended for peaceful purposes.

Iran is continuing its uranium enrichment activities, at 3.5 and 20 per cent, as well as its heavy-water-related project, in violation of its obligations under resolutions adopted by the Council and in the absence of credible civilian purpose. Iran has begun to produce uranium enriched to 20 per cent at its underground facility at Fordo, which, let us remember, had been concealed for many years. That is an alarming development to which we, along with our German, British and American partners, drew the Council's attention in January.

Iran's increased capacity to produce enriched uranium beyond 3.5 per cent clearly brings it very close to military levels. The IAEA also expresses great concern about the possible military dimension of Iran's nuclear programme. In its report of 8 November 2011, it details Iran's activities specifically tied to nuclear

arms. We regret that, despite two visits by the Agency, Iran has refused to give it access to all necessary documents, people and sites. That refusal is contrary to the demands formulated by the IAEA Board of Governors in November. We especially regret that IAEA inspectors were not authorized to visit the military site in Parchin. We are also concerned by reports from the Agency that several kilos of natural uranium metal may have been diverted.

Beyond nuclear issues, other Iranian actions in violation of Council resolutions compound our concern. Iran is improving its ballistic capacities, including under cover of its space programme. France, along with the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany, notified the Committee of a satellite launched on a Safir rocket on 3 February — yet another Iranian violation of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010).

We are also deeply concerned about the weapons that Iran continues to distribute in violation of Council resolutions, threatening the security of its neighbours and of an already unstable region. I am particularly concerned about Syria. New arms transfers between Iran and Syria have been reported to the Committee since our last meeting (see S/PV.6697), compounding the numerous confirmed cases already reported to the Committee by several Member States. The high number of those instances confirms a deliberate and ongoing policy of illicit transfer of arms and related material between Iran and Syria. In Lebanon, too, Hizbullah continues to claim Iran's material support, in violation of resolutions 1747 (2007) and 1701 (2006).

In the face of this challenge, the international community has demonstrated its unity and determination. Measures taken by the Security Council are not ends in themselves; they are meant to convince Iran to negotiate. And they have an effect. We must therefore continue to implement them rigorously. That will require first of all a firm response to reported violations. The Committee must in particular identify individuals and entities accused of violations, in accordance with its mandate. We must also improve the implementation of sanctions wherever they are necessary. We call yet again for the final report of the Panel of Experts to be published, in accordance with sanctions committees practice.

What we call for — and what the Council has demanded numerous times — is that Iran convince us of the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. Our goal remains a negotiated solution. We are ready for dialogue, in keeping with the dual approach that we have always advocated, but Iran must demonstrate its willingness for serious negotiations. Ms. Ashton, on behalf of the six parties, has proposed to Iran to restart talks about nuclear issues. She has noted their willingness to embark on a policy of re-establishing trust, leading to a comprehensive solution, whereby Iran would fully implement its obligations under resolutions of the Security Council and of the IAEA Board of Governors. For the six parties, it is essential that discussions be focused on the concerns raised by Iran's nuclear programme. We therefore call on Iran to seriously engage in that process. We call on it to seize this opportunity to emerge from the international isolation caused by its military nuclear programme.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): I would like to join my colleagues in thanking Ambassador Néstor Osorio for presenting the 90-day report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). We commend his stewardship of the Committee and the professionalism with which the Committee has been implementing its mandate.

The Panel of Experts is mandated to assist the Committee in the implementation of the relevant resolutions, and has to work under the direction of the Committee. We appreciate the work, including outreach activities, that the Panel has been doing, and we encourage it to continue its work in strict compliance with the relevant resolutions in an independent, objective, transparent and impartial manner. The Panel should also brief the Committee regularly on all its activities.

During the reporting period, the Panel submitted several reports, including a quarterly update on the implementation reports of the Member States submitted during the period from 1 November 2011 to 31 January 2012. We thank the Panel for those reports, which we are carefully studying. In January this year, three members of the Panel visited India. They had a useful exchange of views with the authorities concerned in New Delhi.

India has consistently supported the right of all nations to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in accordance with relevant international treaties to which they are parties. Iran should fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to restore

confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. In that connection, we welcome the recent exchanges between Iran and the IAEA. We hope that the outstanding technical issues concerning the Iranian nuclear programme will be resolved peacefully through Iran's cooperation with the IAEA. We also welcome the decision to resume talks between the P5+1 group and Iran. Those talks should serve as an important confidence-building measure and help avoid an escalation of the situation.

India supports the full implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council concerning the Iranian nuclear issue. While implementing those resolutions, it is necessary that all efforts be made to ensure that legitimate trade and economic activities do not suffer.

In conclusion, we support the Chair's intention to hold an open briefing, along with the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts, in April 2012 for interested Member States on implementation procedures. That briefing will also serve as a useful opportunity for the members of the Committee and the Panel to get the views of the wider United Nations membership.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Colombia for his briefing on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) over the past 90 days. I commend his efforts in advancing the work of the Committee. I hope that the Committee will continue to carry out its mandate in a prudent, pragmatic and balanced way. China has always attached importance to and will continue to actively participate in the work of the Committee.

The situation in the Middle East is now undergoing profound changes. Safeguarding regional peace and stability and avoiding greater turbulence in the region is in the common interests of all parties. It is also in line with the shared aspirations of the international community. Against that backdrop, it is of more pragmatic importance to be firmly committed to dialogue and negotiation in order to promptly resolve the Iranian nuclear issue.

Thanks to the joint efforts of all parties, the P5+1 group and Iran have expressed their willingness to engage in sincere dialogue. The process of resolving the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue has shown positive momentum. China hopes that parties will narrow differences and take constructive measures so as to launch sustainable dialogue at an early date and actively explore a comprehensive, long-term and appropriate settlement to the Iranian nuclear issue.

As a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Iran enjoys the right to the peaceful use of nuclear power. It should also honour its international obligations. China hopes that Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will further strengthen dialogue and cooperation on the current basis and resolve the pending issues as soon as possible. China also looks forward to a constructive role being played by the IAEA in that regard.

China always believes that relevant resolutions of the Security Council should be implemented in a conscientious, comprehensive and accurate manner. However, sanctions are by no means an end in themselves. The Iranian nuclear issue can be appropriately addressed only through dialogue and cooperation. All members of the Committee and the Panel of Experts, under the leadership of the Committee, should further advance their work based on the foregoing understanding and in strict accordance with the mandate of the resolution.

Mr. Berger (Germany): I thank Ambassador Osorio for his briefing and for his work as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

The E3+3 and Iran have expressed their willingness to engage in talks. We acknowledge that Iran has finally responded to the European Union High Representative's letter of 21 October 2011. We call on Iran to engage seriously in meaningful discussions on concrete steps aimed at restoring confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. The early resumption of nuclear talks offers an important opportunity. It is now up to Iran to seize the moment, return to the negotiating table in a constructive spirit and be ready to cooperate.

Last week, Minister for Foreign Affairs Westerwelle reiterated our concern that the Iranian nuclear programme challenged the stability of the Middle East region and the international non-proliferation regime. In the debate on the situation in the Middle East (S/PV.6734), Minister Westerwelle made clear that a nuclear-armed Iran was not acceptable. We are concerned that, despite the efforts made so far, access to Parchin was not granted to the most recent missions of the International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA). We also regret that Iran recently increased its uranium enrichment activities at the Fordo and Natanz facilities, as reported by the IAEA. It remains essential that Iran intensify its cooperation with the Agency in order to resolve all outstanding substantive issues, in particular those having possible military dimensions.

We repeat our call on Iran to finally comply in full and without delay with all its international obligations under the relevant resolutions of the Council and the IAEA Board of Governors. We urge Iran to apply the modified Code 3.1 and implement the Additional Protocol.

It is unfortunate that Iran continues to be in violation of its international obligations. As we were told during today's briefing, more cases of sanctions violations have been reported. We reiterate our concern over the weapons exports from Iran to other countries, especially to Syria, and to Hizbullah. Likewise, we notified, together with France, the United Kingdom and the United States, yet another violation of paragraph 9 of resolution 1929 (2010) — the launch of the Navid satellite into space in early February, using Iran's Safir space launch vehicle.

These incidents underline the importance of properly implementing the existing sanctions regime. The 1737 Committee and its Panel of Experts have a vital role to play in that regard. We believe that, pending a final solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, the international community should make the best use of the tools at its disposal. We welcome the forthcoming briefing by the Committee's Chair in early April to inform the broader United Nations membership about how to implement the Iran resolutions.

On 7 May 2011, the Panel of Experts presented its final report. We reiterate our call for that useful report to finally be released. The report of the Panel of Experts is an important tool for all Member States, which are themselves requested to report on the implementation of the sanctions measures. That makes it all the more urgent to release the report of the Panel of Experts. We will continue to support the independence of the Panel. We hold that its travel plans must remain unimpeded. The Panel must be in a position to investigate incidents wherever and whenever deemed necessary.

Additional designations under the Council's sanctions regime are an important element in our toolkit. Germany welcomes the Committee's ability to designate sanctions violators, as stipulated in paragraph 26 of resolution 1929 (2010). We support the listing of sanctions violators to demonstrate to all individuals who disrespect the Council's resolutions that they will be confronted by harsh measures for their bad conduct.

Finally, let me reiterate our determination to find a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. We remain prepared to restart dialogue with Iran aimed at restoring international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): I thank Ambassador Néstor Osorio for his work as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and for his comprehensive briefing on the activities of that Committee.

It is essential that the Committee continue to solicit national implementation reports from Member States and, with the support of the Panel of Experts working constructively with them, to increase the number of such reports. Azerbaijan welcomes the fourth quarterly assessment of Member States' implementation reports. We note the work done so far by the Panel of Experts in drafting the implementation assistance notices, and hope that that work can be finalized in a timely manner.

The Republic of Azerbaijan attaches the utmost importance to preventing the use of its territory as a transit route for the illicit trafficking of items and materials related to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons technology. In our view, preventing the spread of nuclear weapons is the most important security challenge that the international community is currently confronting. But in pursuing that goal, we cannot deny the right of any country to develop its nuclear industry for exclusively peaceful purposes, under strict international control.

Finally, I would also like to note that the requirements of resolution 1737 (2006) and international norms of non-proliferation, including combating illicit trafficking, cannot be applied to the almost 20 per cent of the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan that is currently occupied by neighbouring Armenia, as a consequence of which

Azerbaijan does not control 132 kilometres of its southern border.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): I, too, wish to thank Ambassador Osorio for his briefing to the Council today on the 90-day report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

South Africa continues to support the resolution of the issues involved with Iran's nuclear programme through peaceful means and dialogue between the parties concerned, including between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Islamic Republic of Iran. South Africa does not believe that sanctions are an end in themselves and therefore wishes to emphasize that they should be aimed at encouraging progress towards a peaceful resolution of the concerns about Iran's nuclear activities.

In that regard, South Africa notes from the latest report of the Director General of the IAEA that the Agency continues to be able to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran, but also that it remains unable to provide credible assurances about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran.

The IAEA remains the sole competent technical authority to verify the nature of the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We are therefore pleased to note the recent negotiations between Iran and the Agency, and look forward to their resumption culminating in a structured approach to address all outstanding issues consistent with the Agency's verification practices.

South Africa once again encourages all parties concerned to avoid any actions that could derail progress towards finding a sustainable solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. To that end, we trust that the Security Council will work in good faith to encourage constructive dialogue between the parties concerned. We call upon Iran to comply with the relevant decisions of the IAEA and with its obligation and other relevant Security Council resolutions.

We wish to reiterate that South Africa believes that we should not tire in seeking, in a cooperative manner, a long-term solution that restores international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme, while respecting Iran's right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, consistent with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): We thank Ambassador Néstor Osorio for his briefing to the Council this morning. Allow me to take this first opportunity as a new Council member to offer our perspective on the various Security Council resolutions relating to Iran and on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and its Panel of Experts.

Pakistan fully supports the internationally agreed non-proliferation goals. Pakistan is an active partner in the several global platforms and processes that are aimed at advancing disarmament and non-proliferation. It is important for all States to implement in good faith Security Council resolutions, including those relating to the Iranian nuclear issue. On our part, we have complied fully with the provisions of resolution 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010), and have filed the requisite reports with the 1737 Committee.

Over the past several years, the 1737 Committee has undertaken several activities, including, inter alia, the adoption of guidelines for the conduct of its work, the preparation of implementation assistance notices and several reports and briefings to the Member States. Similarly, the Panel of Experts has carried out a number of tasks to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate. The scope of activities undertaken by the Committee and its Panel is vast and requires careful examination, especially by new members of the Security Council. We are reviewing the documentation that has been made available to the new members recently, and will contribute to the proceedings of the Committee in the months ahead.

The briefings by the Committee to the Council serve useful outreach and awareness purposes for the larger United Nations membership. They are designed to sensitize the larger membership about the mandate of the Committee and the activities carried out by it and its Panel of Experts. We take this opportunity to underscore the need for the Council to evolve an institutionalized mechanism to ease the transition of new Council members into the work not only of this body, but also of all its subsidiary bodies. We propose that structured briefings be offered and documentation made available in a timely manner to the new members in order to enable them to participate meaningfully in the proceedings and decision-making processes of the Council and its committees. We trust that the Council and its committees shall pursue activities in a balanced, inclusive and consensus-based manner. We assure you,

Mr. President, and Ambassador Osorio of our delegation's full support in those endeavours.

We have noted the views expressed by other Council members on the need for the publication of the Panel's final report. We are in the process of examining that and other reports, and shall express our views subsequently. At this stage, we would like to note that the Panel has an important job in carrying out its work consistent with its mandate and under the direction of the Committee. As a matter of general principle, the Panel's reports should conform to the parameters set by the Council's resolutions and facilitate an effective and balanced implementation of the sanctions regime. The composition of the Panel also needs to reflect a broader and more equitable geographic representation than is currently the case. We hope that those considerations will be taken into account when future reports are prepared by them and the experts are appointed.

Sanctions regimes created by the Security Council are, at best, a tool or a means to achieve a larger objective. There are different perspectives on the rationale, scope and efficacy of those regimes. Today's briefing is, however, not the forum to debate on what the sanctions can or cannot achieve. As far as Pakistan is concerned, we believe that sanctions should not become an end in themselves. They should instead be aligned with the broader objectives of facilitating dialogue, negotiations and the resolution of outstanding issues. We have taken note of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report on the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) safeguards in Iran. While noting the programme of work between Iran and the Agency, we trust that they will remain constructively engaged with a view to resolving all outstanding issues.

Pakistan welcomes the recent announcement of the resumption of talks between Iran and the P5+1 group. That is a positive sign and a step in the right direction. In our view, dialogue and cooperation are the best means to resolve all outstanding matters relating to the Iranian nuclear issue. Pakistan, as a neighbouring country, does not wish any escalation of tension in an already volatile region. Iran is a party to the NPT and a member of the IAEA. Accordingly, it has rights and obligations alike. We believe that Iran should fulfil its legal obligations while Iran's rights should also be respected. We hope that the Committee and Panel's work moves in the direction of facilitating a peaceful, amicable and fair resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation): We thank the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), Permanent Representative of Colombia Néstor Osorio, for his briefing on the Committee's work.

In the reporting period, the Committee pursued its active work addressing the tasks facing it. In view of the heightened sensitivity of the problem of sanctions, it is particularly important for the Committee to act in a balanced, objective manner and not breach the terms of its mandate. That needs to continue in the future, and also applies to the Committee's Panel of Experts, working under its leadership and giving this body practical assistance. It is important for the activities of the experts to be built on an impartial and independent basis, using only credible sources and reliable information.

Russia fully complies with all Security Council sanctions against Iran. In that context, we believe that the effectiveness of the sanctions regime and the overall integrality and unity of the international community's actions on outstanding issues related to the Iranian nuclear programme are undermined by introducing further unilateral restrictions. In a number of cases, they have an extraterritorial effect. That is categorically unacceptable from an international legal point of view. The members of the international community must scrupulously fulfil the relevant Security Council resolutions and not exceed their remit.

We do not deny the gravity of the problem of restoring trust in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. We share the concerns in that regard. At the same time, we oppose attempts to artificially inflame the atmosphere around that subject. After two rounds, the talks between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran should continue. We expect a speedy resumption of dialogue between the six international mediators with Iran, at which the Iranian nuclear programme will be one of the key topics of discussion.

For our part, we are doing our utmost to achieve a comprehensive, long-term settlement to the situation concerning the Iranian nuclear programme, using exclusively political diplomatic means through dialogue between the P5+1 group and Iran in a spirit of

mutual respect and on the basis of phased mutual principles. It is important that the resolution adopted by the IAEA Board of Governors in November and the 8 March statement by the Chinese representative to the Board of Governors on behalf of the P5+1 both refer to those principles and confirm the resolve of the international community to find a comprehensive political diplomatic settlement.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): Like our colleagues, I thank Ambassador Néstor Osorio for his leadership of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), for the work accomplished under his direction, and for the informative report he just presented on the activities carried out in the past three months. Some of the issues raised in that report are indeed particularly worrying, and we encourage the Committee to pursue its investigations on all those matters. Increasing tensions in an already unstable region reinforce our concerns.

Let me reiterate once again the importance that we attach to the publication of the Panel of Experts final report, which was submitted in May 2011. That report should already have been made available to all United Nations Member States as a measure not only of transparency, but also of accountability for the tasks undertaken by the Committee last year. Moreover, we need to raise awareness among Member States of the importance of fully and adequately implementing resolution 1929 (2010), and information sharing is crucial in that regard.

The report of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), dated 24 February (S/2012/114, annex), established again the continued absence of progress in Iran's cooperation with the Agency and confirmed that its enrichment activities and heavy water-related projects were not suspended. A number of outstanding cases that demand urgent clarification were not answered, and access to nuclear sites, in particular the Parchin site, continue to be denied.

The possible existence in Iran of past or current undisclosed nuclear activities involving a military dimension, including the development of ballistic missile capabilities, significantly increases our general concern and suspicion over the true nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. At this point in time, it is essential for Iran to urgently restore international confidence concerning the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme, in accordance with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Safeguards Agreement, as well as the relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions.

As we have stated before, the IAEA is the only international body of ascertaining the true nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. It is imperative that Iran respond positively and through concrete actions to the requests of the Agency and engage seriously in the resumption of negotiations for a comprehensive and long-term settlement of the nuclear issue.

Portugal continues to stand by its long-standing commitment to support and work for a diplomatic solution and is encouraged by the prospect in the near future of substantive talks to be held in the framework of the E3+3. We sincerely hope that Iran will now enter into meaningful discussions without preconditions and cooperate with the IAEA to clarify all outstanding issues, in particular those that give rise to the international community's deep concerns about possible military dimensions to its nuclear programme.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Néstor Osorio for his briefing this morning and his work as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

(*spoke in French*)

I also wish to extend my thanks to the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1929 (2010) for the level its expertise made available to the Committee. We encourage the Panel to continue its monitoring action of the Committee and its participation in the various conferences and meetings pursuant to the Committee's mandate, in particular its dialogue with Member States, especially through visits organized to countries at their request.

The Committee continues to consider the cases of which it has been notified, and we hope that it will enjoy all the necessary support of Member States, just as we remain confident that it can continue to count on the professionalism and impartiality of the Panel of Experts. We also hope that the Committee will continue its consideration of the Panel of Experts' final report of 2011 in a constructive spirit that will enable it to reach a consensus on the publication of that report as soon as possible.

In the same spirit, my delegation supports the intention of the Chair to organize a briefing for all States Members of the United Nations in the very near future in order to provide greater transparency to the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

The latest report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (S/2012/114, annex) shows that outstanding issues of the Iranian nuclear programme have still not been resolved. It is crucial that the dialogue between Iran and the P5+1 group resume as soon as possible. We remain convinced that dialogue and the diplomatic channel are the only way to find a solution to the issue. The success of such a dialogue requires a clear and sustained commitment in good faith and the avoidance of any action that could complicate the situation.

We also believe that resolving the issue means compliance with Security Council resolutions and the requests of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the context of Iran meeting its international obligations. We remain convinced of the impartiality and integrity of the IAEA as the sole competent body in that area and that, as a result, it should enjoy all necessary cooperation, including the required information and access.

Here, we reiterate that the non-proliferation regime should not be weakened and that all States should scrupulously respect their safeguards obligations. The goal of nuclear disarmament, which my country values, continues to be put to the test if freely undertaken non-proliferation commitments are not respected. At the same time, we wish to underscore that that regime is based on a fundamental balance between the rights and obligations of States that no State may avoid.

In conclusion, allow me to express the hope that the intended dialogue will take place and that Iran and the P5+1 swiftly return to the negotiating table.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): We wish to thank Ambassador Néstor Osorio for his informative briefing and the leadership that he has shown in guiding the activities of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). We are particularly grateful for the assistance provided by his team, the Chair of the Committee and the Panel of Experts to the new Council members to better understand the functioning of the Committee.

Since the adoption of resolution 1737 (2006), Guatemala has adopted practical measures to ensure the full implementation of the resolution in our country. We do not possess or intend to possess weapons of mass destruction of any kind. As a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and a signatory to all main international instruments and agreements on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Guatemala reaffirms the importance of a balanced implementation of the three fundamental pillars of the NPT: non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Of course, we believe that that last pillar includes the right of all States parties to the NPT to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy as long as it has established that it is for peaceful purposes. Allow me to underscore some points of the report.

First, our primary focus in the Committee should be the effective implementation of resolution 1737 (2006), adopted by the Council, which includes the consideration of all its reports.

Second, it is of concern to note that the Islamic Republic of Iran has ignored the provisions of resolution 1737 (2006) and subsequent resolutions. That is completely unacceptable and jeopardizes the effectiveness of joint decisions of the Council.

Third, applying sanctions is a process that requires the ongoing and resolute efforts of the international community. Much has been done to implement resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1929 (2010). However, it is not enough and we must continue our action.

We commend the outreach activities carried out by the Panel of Experts through visits, inspections and participation in seminars. Such activities have facilitated understanding not only of the work of the Committee, but also of the role of States in implementing the relevant resolutions. We believe that those activities should be continued. Further strengthening of outreach activities in developing countries is necessary to consolidate the improvements.

Fourth, Guatemala is grateful for the work of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1929 (2010) as summarized in the mid-term review report published in 2011. It is important that the Committee continue actively to provide its guidance and leadership. The mandate of the Panel of Experts

has been clearly defined in paragraph 29 of the resolution, and remains the sole reference for the Committee to continue to follow up the various activities of the group.

Fifth, viewed from a broader political perspective, the issue of the Iranian nuclear situation is not encouraging. As yet there has been no progress in negotiations; on the contrary, the current confrontational tendency is a source of great concern. The lack of confidence combined with the recent alarming events both within and outside the Islamic Republic of Iran risk generating a dangerous situation, which we must strenuously avoid. To ensure that the situation does not deteriorate even further, we must seek worthy and credible alternatives aimed at establishing an environment conducive to dialogue and genuine commitment. New endeavours are necessary to strengthen the foundation of a negotiated solution.

Sixth, Iran's implementation of the provisions of the relevant Council resolutions and its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency must also be considered a step in the right direction. The suspension of all activities linked to enrichment and processing is a legally binding requirement under resolution 1737 (2006), and crucial to establishing confidence.

Seventh, we note that during the reporting period the Committee received notifications from Member States through reports of alleged violations. We commend the Committee, which, with the support of the Group of Experts, has responded to those reports while at the same time intensifying its public opinion outreach activities aimed at avoiding future sanctions violations.

Lastly, my country supports the work of the Committee and its Panel of Experts and remains ready to participate creatively and constructively in considering outstanding issues, as agreed at the Committee's recent meeting on 29 February. We shall continue to follow the matter very closely.

Mr. Menan (Togo) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to associate myself with previous speakers in thanking Mr. Osorio for his excellent work at the head of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006). In the past three months, the Committee, supported by its Panel of Experts, has participated further in the implementation of Security Council resolutions related to the Iranian nuclear programme, in particular by promoting a better understanding of the sanctions regime, pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and others, and in reminding States of their obligations stemming from those resolutions. We welcome that work and encourage the Committee to continue along those lines.

The quarterly report presented to the Council by the Committee again highlights alarming violations of the resolutions associated with the Iranian nuclear programme, despite the many appeals from the international community for those commitments to be respected. Togo has always advocated the principle of general and complete disarmament in all its aspects. We express our grave concern about those serious violations and urge States to fully honour all commitments undertaken.

While Iran cannot be denied the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, that right should not extend to permission to acquire nuclear weapons. As Iran is a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in our opinion it should respect its commitments and work to reassure the international community of its willingness to cooperate and, above all, to engage in direct negotiations with the P5+1.

To date, the attitude of the Iranian authorities, as represented by their public statements, has had little effect in allaying suspicions as to the real nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. Moreover, the latest report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, of 24 February, notes serious concerns with respect to the Iranian nuclear programme. That information suggests that Iran has undertaken activities towards the development of a nuclear explosive device. Such a situation, lest we forget, jeopardizes regional and international peace and security.

Military activities linked to the so-called civil programme should not include nuclear-related activities. We believe that the only guarantee of reassuring the international community today as to the true intentions of Iran is for that country to allow access to all sites, equipment and documents associated with its nuclear programme.

In paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010), the Panel of Experts is requested to make recommendations on actions that the Council, the Committee or Member States could consider taking to improve the implementation of the measures under

consideration. It goes without saying that the implementation of the sanctions regime requires good knowledge of best practices in the field. In that respect, it is troubling that the final report of the Panel of Experts has yet to be communicated to the Council due to objections raised by certain Member States, at a time when it is meant to convey information and best practices aimed at helping States in their efforts to implement resolutions on the Iranian nuclear programme.

The international community, and the Security Council in particular, must prevent nuclear energy from being diverted from peaceful uses towards the manufacture of nuclear weapons or other nuclear devices. In that context, it is important to redouble our efforts to ensure more efficient and effective measures, such as sanctions, and to remain vigilant in confronting violations of Security Council resolutions.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the United Kingdom.

I join others in thanking Ambassador Osorio for today's briefing to the Council and for his report on the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and its Panel of Experts. As his report makes clear, the Committee continues to do important work. During the reporting period it has in particular received a violation report following the launch by Iran of a Safir rocket, a clear contravention of the Council's decision that Iran should not undertake activity related to ballistic missile technology. It has heard a useful briefing from the delegation of France explaining why space-launch and ballistic-missile technologies are essentially identical. It has received notifications from several States that show that Iran continues both to proliferate weapons and import nuclear-related material, in violation of Security Council resolutions. Of those violation reports, we are seriously concerned by evidence of systematic Iranian activity to provide weapons illegally to the Syrian Government — weapons that, as we speak, are being used to violently suppress the people of Syria.

The United Kingdom looks forward to the open meeting of the Committee being planned by Ambassador Osorio. This is an important opportunity to discuss the Committee's work with the wider United Nations membership.

We thank the 1737 Panel of Experts for their ongoing support for the Committee. We welcome their efforts to raise awareness of those steps that Member States need to take to implement sanctions and to promote knowledge-sharing and collaboration between States.

We continue to be frustrated by the blockage of the publication of the Panel of Experts' independent report. We urge the Committee to act on the recommendations in the Panel's report by designating individuals and entities that have violated sanctions and by publishing implementation assistance notices.

Iran's nuclear programme continues to develop, in contravention of the Council's resolutions and of Iran's obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The latest International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report provides further detailed evidence of this. In particular, the report found that Iran continues to increase both production of higher-grade 20 per cent enriched uranium and enrichment to 3.5 per cent.

Iran has failed to give a convincing explanation about how a quantity of its uranium has gone missing. Two IAEA missions to Tehran within less than a month have failed to convince Iran to engage constructively with the Agency. The Iranian Government has again refused the IAEA access to key sites, relevant documents and individuals associated with its nuclear programme. And let us not forget that in its last report, the IAEA said unequivocally that Iran had carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device, that some of its nuclear activities were specific to nuclear weapons and that some of these may still be ongoing.

Iran has time and time again had the opportunity to convince the IAEA otherwise by providing unhindered access to its nuclear facilities and behaving in a transparent manner, but it has failed to do so. No one following these issues could be in any doubt that Iran's clear objective is to develop the technology required for a nuclear weapon.

Despite this, we remain committed to engaging Iran on the international community's genuine concerns regarding its nuclear programme. We continue to seek a peaceful, negotiated solution and are applying pressure on Iran to bring one about. The twin-track approach is working. Iran is feeling the pressure of sanctions and its growing international isolation. We

are ready to talk, but Iran must negotiate seriously and without preconditions. It must match our good faith.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to Ambassador Osorio to respond to comments.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall be brief. I should first like to thank Council members for their responses to and comments on the report that was presented, which overall reflects the work of the members of the Committee, whom I thank for their contributions and guidance.

I should like also to highlight the work of the Panel of Experts, carried out under difficult conditions and with complete commitment and dedication. It deserves commendation, as does the Secretariat, which has provided guidance and assistance in a very serious-minded and professional manner.

I welcome the fact that the initiative of members to convene a briefing open to Member States has received the support that has been evident here. I suggest that such a meeting be convened during the first two weeks of April, if possible. We are working with the Secretariat to determine the availability of rooms, and we trust that we will be able to settle on a date, which will then be duly made known to Council members.

The President: I thank Ambassador Osorio for the clarifications he has provided.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present state of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6738

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6738th meeting

Thursday, 22 March 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Sir Mark Lyall Grant	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Mr. Briz Gutiérrez
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	South Africa	Mr. Crowley
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

The situation in Afghanistan

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2012/133)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-27240 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Afghanistan

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2012/133)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Afghanistan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2012/170, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Germany.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/133, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Azerbaijan, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Morocco, Pakistan, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2041 (2012).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.05 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6739

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6739th meeting

Thursday, 22 March 2012, 10.05 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Parham	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	South Africa	Mr. Crowley
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (S/2012/160)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-27246 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (S/2012/160)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Sierra Leone to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Joseph B. Dauda, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Guillermo Rishchynski, Chairperson of the Sierra Leone country-specific Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Canada, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/160, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone.

I now give the floor Mr. Von der Schulenburg.

Mr. Von der Schulenburg: I am grateful for this opportunity to introduce the Secretary-General's report (S/2012/160) and to brief the Security Council before the end of my assignment to Sierra Leone. Let me therefore start by making some personal remarks.

Sierra Leone is a beautiful country and Sierra Leoneans are lovely and kind people. Wherever I went during my almost four years in Sierra Leone, I felt welcomed and was often struck by the openness and directness of its people, irrespective of whether they were subsistence farmers or traditional leaders in so-called up-country, or whether politicians or intellectuals in the cities. It was also gratifying to see how strong the role of women in Sierra Leonean society is.

In the past, I have often spoken about the exceptional successes Sierra Leone has achieved over the past 10 years and the contributions that its three post-conflict Governments have made — first by the two previous Governments led by former President Kabbah in restoring peace to the country, in rebuilding State institutions and in uniting its deeply traumatized people, and now by the Government led by President Koroma, which is transforming the country economically.

As I leave Sierra Leone, I would like to pay tribute, first of all, to its people for their resilience and their extraordinary ability to forgive and reconcile. Today, victims and perpetrators live side by side in communities all over the country. For anyone who travels through Sierra Leone these days, it would be difficult to imagine the horrors of the civil war that occurred only 10 years ago.

We must recognize that Sierra Leone would not be where it is today without the contributions of its paramount chiefs and other traditional leaders, of its Muslim and Christian religious leaders, of its diverse and active civil society, of its women's organizations, of its often courageous journalists and of the country's artists, above all its musicians.

Sierra Leone benefited from one of the best truth and reconciliation processes, and from a series of independent democratic institutions — such as its Human Rights Commission, its National Electoral Commission, its Political Parties Registration Commission, its Independent Media Commission and its the National Youth Commission, to mention only a few. Let me express here my deepest respect for all their important work.

However, one does not have to search very widely to discover the tremendous trauma that 17 years of one-party rule, 13 military coups and, finally, 11 years of civil war have left behind. I remember the void in Steven's voice, a young electrician, when he spoke of his longing to find his father, who disappeared when he, his mother and his three siblings fled the rebel onslaught. I remember Aisha, now in her 20s,

whose eyes still fill with tears when she speaks in pain of how her family handed her over to rebels in order to save the rest of the family from attack; she was barely 14 years old. I remember Jusu, who is today my security guard, who chose to defend his daughter from being taken by rebel forces and was penalized for it by having both his hands hacked off with a machete. And there are the amputee football players who play on the beaches of Freetown every Saturday, and who will always receive one with their happy songs despite being terribly poor and remaining socially marginalized. Most of them had their limbs cut off when they were small children. There is no bitterness in the country, but there is a lot of human dignity. I will always remember them all with the greatest admiration and a deep sense of humility.

The forthcoming elections in November will be the major test for the country's nascent democracy. Sierra Leone must pass this crucial test in its history without allowing the demons of the past to re-emerge. In that regard, Sierra Leone's political elites bear a heavy responsibility not to let the elections derail Sierra Leone's future. No doubt, most of that responsibility rests on the shoulders of President Koroma and his main challenger for the presidency, Mr. Julius Maada Bio. What they decide and do over the coming months will determine much of the direction that the country will take. There will be times when they will have to put national interest over that of their political parties and over their own political ambitions.

Against that backdrop, reports that the Government imported assault weapons worth millions of dollars in January to equip a recently enlarged paramilitary wing of its police, the Operational Services Division (OSD), are of great concern. Sierra Leone is under no arms embargo. However, given Sierra Leone's progress in establishing peace and security throughout the country and its relatively low crime rate, it is not clear why the police would need such weapons, especially as the shipment, according to a leaked bill of lading, appears to include heavy machine guns and even grenade launchers. I would urge the Government to fully clarify those reports and, if true, to explain the intended use of the weapons.

An enlarged, heavily armed and, allegedly, ethnically imbalanced OSD risks undermining the good work that has been done by the Sierra Leone Police in creating a modern and operationally independent police force that serves the people of Sierra Leone. A people-oriented police was one of the important pillars of the successful security sector reforms after the civil war. Because of the country's painful experience, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had suggested that Sierra Leone abandon all forms of paramilitary police force. Such lessons from the past should be taken more seriously.

There are other worrying signs, such as the attack on the opposition presidential candidate in September of last year, which was followed by an attack by members of the opposition on property of the governing party, the questionable imposition of a three-month ban on all political party rallies, violence surrounding a win by the opposition in by-elections for the Freetown City Council and the recent break-in into a newspaper critical of the Government.

In all of that, the main opposition must be aware that it, too, is entering into the elections with considerable historical baggage. It should therefore help to dispel existing mistrust and allay fears that may linger about any perceived ill intentions. I call on the opposition to be more forthcoming in engaging the Government and to refrain from a politics of boycotting the Parliament and other meetings.

Furthermore, the hardening tone of the political rhetoric is of concern. All sides must refrain from extreme and unsubstantiated accusations. Given Sierra Leone's past, such allegations that either side mobilizes ex-combatants or traditional warriors, such as the Kamajors, are serious matters and should not be taken lightly. True or not, politics is based on perceptions. Such allegations must be laid to rest to prevent them from creating a sense of insecurity. Both sides may consider organizing a multiparty investigation, similar to the approach that was taken in tackling alleged illegal cross-border voter registration along the Liberian border.

The all-important elections will take place in only eight months, and the country would greatly benefit from a number of confidence-building measures. First, the Government and opposition parties must continue to carry out a dialogue and, in the interests of the country as a whole, openly discuss controversial issues that could derail the elections. That must also include face-to-face meetings between President Koroma and his main challenger, Mr. Maada Bio. Senior politicians simply do not have the luxury of stalling such dialogue

because of personal clashes in the past while expecting ordinary Sierra Leoneans to reconcile.

The discussions must be designed to reassure the general public that both the Government and the opposition are working together in creating an atmosphere for the elections that is free from any intimidation and in which each citizen can make his or her own choice without fear of retribution. In that context, the Government should seek to clarify several reports criticizing the role that the Minister of Internal Affairs has allegedly played in various violent clashes. As the Ministry for Internal Affairs is responsible for internal security during the elections, it must have the trust of the general public.

Secondly, all parties should revert to the spirit and letter of the joint communiqué signed on 2 April 2009 between the two main political parties, which was wholeheartedly embraced by the President. That would essentially include three aspects. The first is that the report of the Shears-Moses Commission of Inquiry, which investigated the events that led to the most serious outbreak, in March 2009, of political violence since the end of the civil war, must be issued without any further delay. It has now been two years since the report was submitted to the President. In spite of repeated pledges to publish it, most recently in a meeting the President held with the entire diplomatic corps in October 2011, that has not yet been done.

The second aspect is the establishment of an independent police complaints commission, which was agreed to in the joint communiqué but has now been delayed for three years. I welcome recent indications that the Police Council has taken initial steps. However, if that is to have a calming impact on the November elections, there is no further time to lose.

As part of the Joint Communiqué, President Koroma took the bold decision to turn the Government radio station into a fully independent national public broadcaster, the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC). In exchange, all political party radio stations were closed. That move drew much international praise, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon joined the President for the inauguration of the SLBC, in June 2010. Unfortunately, the SLBC has not fulfilled expectations, and bad management practices have begun to impact negatively on the quality and impartiality of its programmes. Recent personnel decisions made so close to the elections raise further questions about the SLBC's political neutrality. I hope that the Government will stick to its courageous decision and help to bring about the necessary adjustments in the board and management of the SLBC that would make it a truly national and independent voice of Sierra Leone.

The third aspect entails all political parties working together in support of the country's electoral management bodies, above all the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission, and preventing any negative actions that could undermine their credibility in the eyes of the general public.

The revised election law must be approved by Parliament without further delay. I call on all political parties to join hands in the Parliament and approve the revised law by consensus. The revised law has taken into consideration concerns that had been raised regarding the old law. Joint parliamentary approval would send a positive signal to the public that the elections can be held in a calm atmosphere.

Finally, all political leaders should continue supporting various cross-party initiatives, especially now in the heat of the election. I commend here in particular the work of the All Political Parties Youth Association and the All Political Party Women's Association. The first has made inroads in uniting party youth wings to prevent the misuse of youth in fomenting violence, and the second has greatly contributed to raising political awareness for a stronger role for women in politics.

Sierra Leone is not only a lovely country; it also has the potential to be a very rich country. It is well endowed with natural resources and rich in mineral resources; it has large stretches of unused fertile land, one of the world's highest rates of rainfall, a large natural deep-sea harbour and a rich seafront.

But all its riches are also the country's potential curse. The huge investments in the mining industry have raised expectations, but so far have not benefited the wider population. In fact, as a result of high inflation rates, the purchasing power of fixed-income earners and the poor appears to have decreased considerably over the last few years, and no real difference has been made in getting youth engaged in the development of the country. Sierra Leone's persistent poverty levels are a factor that breeds unrest and could undo all the successes of the past.

In the 1960s, South Korea had a lower per capita income than most West African countries. Today it is the tenth largest industrial country in the world. Korean Prime Minister Kim Hwang-sik recently explained the secret behind such success — education, education, and again education. My final advice to Sierra Leone would therefore be for it to invest in education — invest in universal primary and secondary education, invest in technical colleges and invest in universities. Education would help to turn Sierra Leone's natural and mineral wealth into sustainable development. It would help to lift people out of poverty and help to create new opportunities. It would help to reduce unfair income distribution and it could help to maintain a democratic and peaceful society. Freetown was once called the Athens of Africa — why not again?

States Members of the United Nations have invested heavily in Sierra Leone's peaceful future, both in blood and treasure. On a per capita basis, Sierra Leone has probably received more funding for peacekeeping and peacebuilding than any other country in the world. That is the international community's investment, and we all have to make sure that that investment pays a rich dividend. Sierra Leone has the potential to become a success story, but it will need the continued support and vigilance of the Security Council — especially at this time of elections. For the benefit of Sierra Leone, but also in our own interest, we have to see this effort through.

Let me end here by thanking the Secretary-General for his confidence in me and the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Lynn Pascoe, for all his support. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Rishchynski, for his interest in the country and his support. I have enjoyed working with my colleagues from the diplomatic corps and the development group in Freetown and thank them for their confidence. My very special thanks go, of course, to my colleagues in the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone and the United Nations country team, who have been so supportive to me. I thank them for their commitment to the future of Sierra Leone and to the principles of the United Nations. I would like especially to mention here my Sierra Leonean colleagues who have remained loyal to the Organization even at difficult times.

But, above all, let me thank all Sierra Leoneans for having welcomed me in their midst and for having given me three and a half lovely years in their country. I miss the smiles and warmth of Sierra Leoneans, I miss the regular breakfasts with the country's politicians, I miss the discussions at the round table at the Palaver Hut, and I also miss the regular tête-à-tête meetings that I had with President Koroma.

It would not be truthful if I did not admit that I also miss the spicy cassava leaves, the beautiful beaches and a good game of tennis at Hill Station, where there was a primary school next door with children's laughter floating in the background. I will miss Kpaka, Stevens, Jusu and Obama, my gardener.

Let me wish Mama Salone the very best for its future and hope that the Almighty protects and guides the country and its people. After so many difficult years, Sierra Leoneans deserve a brighter, prosperous and peaceful future.

The President: I thank Mr. von der Schulenburg for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Rishchynski.

Mr. Rishchynski (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to take the floor.

In late January, I travelled to Sierra Leone to take stock of progress on peacebuilding. Let me express my gratitude for the warm welcome, strong support and frank engagement of all national and international interlocutors. Drawing on the findings of that visit, this morning I would like to offer advice on three important issues for Sierra Leone, namely, the forthcoming elections, regional challenges to peacebuilding, and the transition process that will take place in the country.

First, technical and financial preparations for the elections are on track. At the same time, there is a clear need to encourage more open dialogue, both among the political parties and with the national electoral institutions. It is also crucial to better convince the public that all relevant stakeholders will behave in a professional and responsible manner. Political leaders have a particular responsibility to demonstrate their commitment to free, fair and peaceful political competition, including collectively through interparty mechanisms and at public events. As electoral campaigning begins in earnest, all parties must

redouble their efforts to implement their commitments under the joint communiqué of 2009.

The international community has a clear and constructive role to play in support of the electoral process. Sierra Leone's partners should respond favourably to the Government's requests for electoral observers. The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) must continue to have a unique legitimacy and mandate with respect to enabling a favourable political environment. That should be the mission's immediate priority as we approach the elections. The Security Council and the wider United Nations system should stand ready to provide any necessary support to UNIPSIL's efforts.

In that respect, the configuration looks forward to working closely with Mr. von der Schulenburg's successor, because the departure of Mr. von der Schulenburg has created an unfortunate vacuum. The configuration encourages the Secretary-General to fill that position as quickly as possible. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Mr. von der Schulenburg's strong leadership and the considerable contribution he made during his years of service in Sierra Leone. At the personal level, I would like to say that it is a pity that he will not have the opportunity to see the conclusion of that excellent work.

(*spoke in English*)

The Security Council has recently focused more closely on transnational threats to peace and security. That is a welcome development, but much more is needed. Sierra Leone has taken impressive steps towards fighting transnational crime, yet it is hampered by the slower pace of progress elsewhere in the subregion. Stronger and more outcome-oriented engagement with regional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States, as well as increased support for regional programmes such as the West Africa Coast Initiative, is very much needed. The United Nations Office for West Africa plays a vital role in those issues and warrants continued strong support from the Council.

Thirdly, Sierra Leone will face two transitions — one that is shifting from end-stage peacebuilding to a focus on longer-term development, while at the same time the Security Council may wish to consider drawing down UNIPSIL following successful elections later this year. Those processes need to be handled with great care. The United Nations, with strong leadership from UNIPSIL, has developed an innovative and integrated approach — a best practice in the truest sense of that term. Successful mechanisms should be retained and any transition designed to produce minimal shocks to existing practices. Some of the functions currently performed by UNIPSIL will need to be replaced by reinforcing other aspects of the country team. Similarly, Sierra Leone will continue to face significant development challenges and some of the underlying causes of conflict will linger until long-term economic development truly takes hold.

International support must, in our judgment, reflect those realities, and the Peacebuilding Commission will shortly begin considering how its own engagement should evolve as part of that transitional process. The configuration will report back to the Security Council in due course.

In closing, let me note that Sierra Leone has made tremendous progress since the end of its civil war. It is one of the success stories of United Nations peacebuilding. Yet the process is not quite finished, as repeated incidents of political violence over the past year have demonstrated. The Security Council should continue to pay close attention to peacebuilding in Sierra Leone and stand prepared to offer any necessary support. The Peacebuilding Commission will do the same by working in close partnership with all relevant national and international stakeholders towards meeting that goal.

The President: I thank Mr. Rishchynski for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative to His Excellency Mr. Joseph B. Dauda, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Dauda (Sierra Leone): Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of March and by thanking you, first, for having convened this meeting on the situation in Sierra Leone and, secondly, for giving my delegation the opportunity to contribute to this debate. Let me also express our sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for his detailed report on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) for the period of 1 September 2011 to 29 February 2012 (S/2012/160).

I convey on behalf of His Excellency President Ernest Bai Koroma, the Government and the people of Sierra Leone profound appreciation for the relentless support and active interest of the United Nations and friends of Sierra Leone in consolidating peace and security in the country. Permit me to single out in this regard the strong leadership and commitment that the Canadian Chair continues to demonstrate in the pursuit of peace and security in Sierra Leone, as amply evidenced by Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski during his recent visit to Sierra Leone. Our thanks also go to the outgoing Executive Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone and Head of UNIPSIL, Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg, for his role in the consolidation of peace and security and for maximizing the gains of our post-conflict development efforts.

The report seeks to reflect developments in Sierra Leone, including progress made so far and the challenges faced since September 2011. As we commend ourselves for the gains made through the joint efforts of the Government and people of Sierra Leone, the United Nations and the international community, it is crucial that together we resolve to tackle the remaining challenges in order to consolidate comprehensively the gains made.

President Ernest Bai Koroma remains committed to the consolidation of peace, security and sustainable development, as mapped out in our Agenda for Change. As noted in the report, the Government has made steady progress in addressing the three risks of youth unemployment, corruption and illicit drug trafficking and organized crime, identified in the Agenda for Change and endorsed by the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission in its outcome document of September 2009.

The Government has demonstrated strong political will in dealing with issues of political violence, in whatever shape or form and irrespective of party affiliation, and will continue to use legal instruments to bring perpetrators of violence to justice. That was clearly demonstrated when the Government took action in respect of the political violence in Bo, in the Southern province of Sierra Leone, involving the presidential candidate of the main opposition party, which I referred to in my statement to the Council in September 2011 (S/PV.6609).

The presidential, parliamentary and local council elections scheduled for 17 November 2012 indeed remain a crucial test for peace and democratic consolidation in the country. President Ernest Bai Koroma will continue to constantly engage all stakeholders, in particular the opposition parties, with a view to enhancing political dialogue and collective commitment to peaceful, free, fair, transparent and credible elections. The Government is currently considering the report of the Shears-Moses Commission of Inquiry into the March 2009 disturbances and will soon release a white paper on the recommendations of the Commission. We therefore urge the United Nations and all our development partners to continue to give their full support to the ongoing electoral process.

The Government, in promoting women's participation in the decision-making process in line with the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, has been working with United Nations entities and various women's groups, including the Women's Social Support Group, in drafting a gender equality bill that will soon be presented to Parliament. The Government continues to make progress towards the education of the girl child and the provision of free health care to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under five. The Government will continue to promote human rights issues in accordance with our national interest.

The Government's commitment to democratic governance and the maintenance of the independence of our democratic institutions, such as the National Electoral Commission, the Political Parties Registration Commission, the Independent Media Commission and civil society organizations remains undiminished. The Government will soon take the necessary steps to establish an independent police complaints committee. The independence of the judiciary has always been a feature of our democratic governance, and the Government will continue to maintain the inbuilt checks and balances provided for in the Constitution. The National Electoral Commission has duly taken ownership of the electoral process by playing a leading role in the biometric voter registration process and in the review and reform of the electoral laws. The Government recognizes the important role of the Independent Media Commission in regulating the conduct of the media and will

continue to provide support to assist the Commission in effectively performing its functions.

It is acknowledged that Sierra Leone is a success story in peacebuilding and we therefore renew our call on the international community to continue to invest in success in the spirit of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, adopted in Busan, Republic of Korea, and to recognize the need for special attention to be paid to countries emerging from conflict.

In conclusion, I wish to confirm that the Government, recognizing the 2012 elections as a litmus test for our peace and democratic governance consolidation, is taking all necessary steps to ensure that the elections will be peaceful, free, fair, transparent and credible.

The President: I thank Mr. Dauda for his statement.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.